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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/607,707	06/27/2003	Joseph Jacob Zukowski	MICR0424	7921

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EXAMINER
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BONSHOCK, DENNIS G

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2173

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	12/19/2006	PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/607,707

Applicant(s)

ZUKOWSKI ET AL.

Examiner

Dennis G. Bonshock

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 June 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 27 June 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 15-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.
3. Claim 15 recites the limitation "the plurality of categories" in line 1. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

### **Claim Objections**

4. The applicant uses elements (a)-(d) in the independent claim (1) and then reuses (a)-(c) in the dependents (2 and 3). Appropriate correction is required.
5. The applicant uses elements (a)-(d) in the independent claim (13) and then reuses (a)-(c) in the dependents (14 and 15). Appropriate correction is required.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent,

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except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

7. Claims 1, 7-11, 13, 15-17, 19-27, 29, and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Scherr et al, Pub. No.: US 2004/0010513 A1, hereinafter Scherr.

8. With regard to claim 1, which teaches a method for enabling a user to organize a project, comprising the steps of: displaying an integral user environment to a user to enable access of information pertinent to the project from within the integral user environment; creating a list of to do items that are displayed within the integral user environment, Scherr teaches, in paragraphs 22-25 and in figure 1, a system for allowing a user to organize a project into a concern cascade, the cascade having a plurality of levels of concerns ranging from primary Areas of Concern (AoC) to sub-Areas of Concern displayed to the user, in order to show a user what still needs to be done (see paragraph 19). With regard to claim 1, further teaching enabling the user to associate an entity with a selected item in the list of to do items; and enabling a user to access said entity that is thus associated with the selected items, from within the integral user environment, Scherr further teaches, in paragraphs 35 and 42, allowing a user to associate documents (messages, word processing documents, spreadsheets, web pages, data bases, presentations, and the like), with select AoC, and further enabling a user to link to associated documents from within the concern cascade.

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9. With regard to claims 7, 19, and 24, which teach further comprising the step of enabling the user to enter a note in association with a currently selected to do item in the list, so that the note is displayed within the integral user environment which the user subsequently again selects said to do items in the list with which the note is associated, Scherr teaches, in paragraphs 17, and 23-25 and in figure 1, associating a note with an Area of Concern, where the notes are displayed simultaneously with the Area of Concern.

10. With regard to claims 8, 20, and 25, which teach further comprising the step of enabling the user to indicate a date for association with a currently selected to do item in the list, Scherr teaches, in paragraphs 25, 31, and 45, along with figure 6, associating a date with and Area of Concern.

11. With regard to claims 9, 21, and 26, which teach further comprising the step of automatically scheduling the date indicated by the user within a calendar program so that a user is subsequently provided a reminder by the calendar program in regard to the date thus indicated, Scherr teaches, in paragraphs 25 and 45, and in figures 1 and 6, a calendar program that provides the user with reminders of events.

12. With regard to claims 10 and 22, which teach further comprising the step of providing a plurality of defined projects, each defined project including a plurality of proposed to do items that are likely relevant to a subject matter of the defined project, Scherr teaches, in paragraphs 22-25 and in figure 1, the concern cascade having a plurality of levels of concerns ranging from primary Areas of Concern (different projects) and sub-Areas of Concern displayed to the user.

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13. With regard to claim 11, which teaches a memory medium on which are stored machine instruction for carrying out the steps of Claim 1, Scherr teaches, in paragraph 6, a memory medium for storing instructions for implementing the invention.

14. With regard to claim 13, which teaches a system for enabling organizing a project, comprising: a memory in which a plurality of machine instructions are stored (see paragraph 6); a display on which text and graphics are displayed (see paragraph 10 and figures 1 and 5); a user input device that enables input and selection of choices provided on the display (see paragraph 42, claim 1, and figure 5); and a processor coupled to the memory, user input device, and the display (see paragraph 40), said processor executing the plurality of machine instruction to carry out a plurality of functions, including: displaying an integral user environment to a user to enable access of information pertinent to the project from within the integral user environment; creating a list of to do items that are displayed within the integral user environment, Scherr teaches, in paragraphs 22-25 and in figure 1, a system for allowing a user to organize a project into a concern cascade, the cascade having a plurality of levels of concerns ranging from primary Areas of Concern (AoC) to sub-Areas of Concern displayed to the user, in order to show a user what still needs to be done (see paragraph 19). With regard to claim 13, further teaching enabling the user to associate an entity with a selected item in the list of to do items; and enabling a user to access said entity that is thus associated with the selected items, from within the integral user environment, Scherr further teaches, in paragraphs 35 and 42, allowing a user to associate documents (messages, word processing documents, spreadsheets, web pages, data

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bases, presentations, and the like), with select AoC, and further enabling a user to link to associated documents from within the concern cascade.

15. With regard to claim 15, which teaches the plurality of categories include at least two of: a Web link; a test; and a document, Scherr teaches, in paragraph 42, linked categories of information including word processing documents, spreadsheets, web pages, data bases, presentations, and the like.

16. With regard to claims 16 and 27, which teach the step of automatically executing a search for relevant alternative choices of entities to display to the user, as a function of the to do item in the list that is currently selected, Scherr teaches, in paragraphs 36 and 42, a search being done to associate entities (messages, web pages, etc.) with concerns (automatically upon receipt).

17. With regard to claim 17, which teaches further comprising the step of providing alternative choices derived from other programs that are accessible to the user, Scherr teaches, in paragraph 42, the user being able to link any document by saving it to a corresponding concern.

18. With regard to claim 23, which teaches for user on a computing device having a display on which a graphical user interface is provided, a method executed by a software program, for displaying an integrated project environment in which components related to a project are organized and accessible, comprising the steps of: displaying a plurality of to do items in a list, within the integrated project environment, said plurality of to do items being provided by at least one of: a user input; and the software program; Scherr teaches, in paragraphs 22-25 and in figure 1, a system for

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allowing a user to organize a project into a concern cascade, the cascade having a plurality of levels of concerns ranging from primary Areas of Concern (AoC) to sub-Areas of Concern displayed to the user, in order to show a user what still needs to be done (see paragraph 19). With regard to claim 23, which further teaches displaying indications of entities associated by the user with the items in the to do list, within the integrated project environment, each entity comprising one of a template of the software, program, a document, and a Web link relevant to the items in the to do list with which the entity is associated, Scherr further teaches, in paragraphs 35 and 42, allowing a user to associate documents (messages, word processing documents, spreadsheets, web pages, data bases, presentations, and the like) with select Areas of Concern. Scherr further teaches, in paragraph 42, linked categories of information including word processing documents, spreadsheets, web pages, data bases, presentations, and the like. With regard to claim 23, which further teaches enabling a user to select and access the entity associated with a to do item from within the integrated project environment, Scherr further teaches, in paragraphs 35 and 42, enabling a user to link to associated documents from within the concern cascade.

19. With regard to claim 29, which teaches the search result includes entities provided by different application programs that are accessible by the user, Scherr teaches, in paragraphs 36 and 42, the system implementing the searching of different types of documents including word processing documents, spreadsheets, web pages, data bases, presentations, and the like.



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20. With regard to claim 30, which teaches a memory storing machine instructions for carrying out the steps of Claim 23, Scherr teaches, in paragraph 6, a memory medium for storing instructions for implementing the invention.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

21. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

22. Claims 18 and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Scherr.

23. With regard to claim 18, which teaches further comprising the step of including a blank entity among the plurality of choices that are displayed the user, Scherr teaches, in paragraphs 35 and 42, allowing a user to associate documents, where it would be obvious to link to blank entities. One would be motivated to do so because a blank document is just an empty document (empty word processing document), that would provide a user with a starting point for a document.

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24. With regard to claim 28, which teaches the search being performed automatically and is a natural word query based on the currently selected item in the to do list, Scherr teaches, in paragraph 42, the system implementing a "file system search", which obviously could comprise a natural word query, of documents. One would have been motivated to make such a combination because language searching is a frequently used search means, in a file system, that would enable documents with like words to be provided for inspection and further application to the list.

25. Claims 2-6, 12, and 14, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Scherr and Zawadzki et al., Patent No.: 7,107,268, hereinafter Zawadzki.

26. With regard to claims 2 and 14, which teach the step of enabling the user to associate the entity comprises the steps of: displaying a plurality of categories of entities from which the user can select, within the integral user environment; in response to the user selecting one of the categories, displaying alternative choices of entities from which the user can select for association with a to do item in the list; and in response to one of the plurality of alternative choices being selected, providing an indication that said one of the plurality of alternative choices is associated with the to do item in the list, Scherr teaches associating elements from varying categories (messages, word processing documents, spreadsheets, web pages, etc.) with concerns in a list of concerns, and providing a visual links to the documents via the UI (see

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paragraphs 35 and 42), but doesn't specifically teach displaying a plurality of categories of entities for association with items in the list.

Zawadzki teaches a project tracker screen where items are selectively placed in a to do list (see column 27, line 53 through column 28, line 23 and figure 16), similar to that of Scherr, but further teaches, allowing a user to associate an item with a Project, where the items are contained in different categories of items (folders) which are selectively expanded to enable view of the sub folder items, and further allowing for selection and placement into the project via selection of an "Add" button (see column 34, lines 1-47 and figure 17). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Scherr and Zawadzki before him at the time the invention was made to modify the project management system of Scherr to provide for a display of a plurality of categories of linkable elements, as did Zawadzki. One would have been motivated to make such a combination because Scherr describes varying categories of linked documents, where an interface to link by type would be desirable, furthermore this would provide a more organized saving of documents to associated concerns (see Scherr paragraph 42).

27. With regard to claim 3, which teaches the plurality of categories include at least two of: a Web link; a test; and a document, Scherr teaches, in paragraph 42, linked categories of information including word processing documents, spreadsheets, web pages, data bases, presentations, and the like.

28. With regard to claim 4, which teaches the step of automatically executing a search for relevant alternative choices of entities to display to the user, as a function of

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the to do item in the list that is currently selected, Scherr teaches, in paragraphs 36 and 42, a search being done to associate entities (messages, web pages, etc.) with concerns (automatically upon receipt).

29. With regard to claim 5, which teaches further comprising the step of providing alternative choices derived from other programs that are accessible to the user, Scherr teaches, in paragraph 42, the user being able to link any document by saving it to a corresponding concern.

30. With regard to claim 6, which teaches further comprising the step of including a blank entity among the plurality of choices that are displayed the user, Scherr teaches, in paragraphs 35 and 42, allowing a user to associate documents, where it would be obvious to link to blank entities. One would be motivated to do so because a blank document is just an empty document (empty word processing document).

31. With regard to claim 12, which teaches a memory medium on which are stored machine instructions for carrying out the steps of Claim 2, Scherr teaches, in paragraph 6, a memory medium for storing instructions for implementing the invention.

### ***Conclusion***

32. The prior art made of record on form PTO-892 and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Applicant is required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111(c) to consider these references fully when responding to this action. The documents cited therein teach systems for creating a to-do list.

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33. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dennis G. Bonshock whose telephone number is (571) 272-4047. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 6:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

34. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kristine Kincaid can be reached on (571) 272-4063. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

35. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

10-26-06  
dgb

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